

Minnesota Nature Photography Club				
October 2024 Salon Images				
Entry				
Number	Entry Name	Class	Score	
1391	Green Heron Shaking Off the Rain	W	9	Stoically suffering the elements of the day. Good story! Nice even background. Could the right edge where where the logs leave the frame be slightly darkened?
1399	Yellowstone trees	G	7	I like the story, which I see as the aftermath of a forest fire. Dead, gray trees remind us of what was, and lush, rich colored grasses show renewed life. Visually, I feel a focal point and flow are not well defined.
1430	Web We Weave	G	8	Good sharpness and contrast, plus interesting color and light make this a much better than average spider web shot. The upper left quadrant could be darkened a bit. Interest and story would be stronger if there was a spider or bug somewhere in the web.
1471	Cedar Wax Wing Trio	W	7	A very nice arrangement and setting. The topmost bird looks slightly blurred at the head and beak. However, most problematic is that processing for noise or sharpness has crossed a line. Fine detail in the feather structure, especially on the top bird, has been lost. I think with different processing this could score much higher.
1702	Albatross Scenic	W	10	An interesting and well composed landscape scene with a big bonus as foreground. The parent bird engaged with the chick and the chick engaged with the camera. And the sky is dynamic too.
1749	Painted Bunting Portrait	W	10	It is so important that wildlife photos show action or engagement. In this case, the birds back is faced to the camera, which is good because the colors and design are spectacular, and then the bird turns its head around and looks directly at the camera. It is no longer a butt shot!
2017	Painted Bunting	W	9	This bird is less engaged, however the light is exceptionally soft and warm. It is good to show more branch because it is interesting. Also, the background gives context but is still subdued enough to not be distracting.
2050	Fireball	G	8	A scene with a primitive feel caught at the right moment. Enough smoke or moisture in the air to keep the sunlight from blowing out the scene. Trees on the right side line up a leading line toward the sun. I found the clump of close up branches on the left side to be intrusive, even though they are dark.

2068	2068 Beach Meet in Pastel Light (w).jpg	W	7	I scored this a 7 because I felt it could easily be a 9 or 10. In spite of the powerful subjects and special moment, the light just seemed flat and slightly unbalanced. If this was mine (maybe someday) I would slightly darken the upper background to put even more attention on the bears, and consider warming the light slightly. As it is, the bears dominate the scene initially, but the background pulls me away. Other than showing context, I didn't find the background that interesting.
2075	Hollow Rock Beach	G	8	An interesting creative choice to make the pebbles the subject and blur the background, while leaving enough detail to display the powerful wave action. One strategically located bright rock provides a good visual entry point. A second bright rock on the right edge could be darkened. I found it distracting.
2116	Before The Rice Harvest	X	10	A wonderfully strong composition and subject. A visual flow leads down the terraces to the cloud filled valley, then follows a ridge of clouds back to a collection of buildings on the right third. Easy to stay in this photo and explore details.
2391	Greater Yellowlegs Land Dispute	W	9	An interesting action shot showing birds "doing their thing". Low angle light nicely shows of their yellow legs. A minor suggestion is to try slightly darkening the white band at the top of the frame.
2399	Milky Way	G	8	A well composed and executed night sky. I like that the Milky Way is not excessively brightened, which is often seen. Personally, I prefer to minimize artificial light in the scene. If this were mine, I would brush down the distant light pollution and desaturate the blue somewhat.
2430	Crex Daybreak	G	7	A dramatic image filled with action, as the birds come out of the field. A long lens gives the sun a powerful presence. My only misgiving was a perception that the horizon is not quite level. I didn't bring it into Lightroom to verify, but a ruler across my screen shows the right side being higher than the left. With a horizon that appears level, I would score this a 9 or 10.
2471	Swallows Food Transfer	W	10	Great interaction and relationship, close up. The bright, white background can be challenge. Minimizing the space it occupies is a good response. When I mention retaining the fine detail in feathers, this is a good example. One needs good optical sharpness, relatively low noise and minimal smoothing to achieve this.
2702	Sheeps Sorrel in Wind	X	7	If I saw this photo on the wall in someone's home, I would call it a great color accent. It is a pleasing mix of colors, lines and motion. For me, even an abstract image needs one solid point of something to anchor the image. I just couldn't find it.

2749	Tricolored Heron with Snack	W	7	An excellent action moment for sure. Color is vivid, the eye is sharp and the background is nice. However, it looks to me like processing has resulted in a loss of fine detail in the feathers and a harsh edge on the wings.
1017	Aurora over Grindstone Lake	X	8	A very nice composition. Two horizons converging on the thirds and clouds aligned with the converging lines. If it were mine, I would tone down the color intensity a little. Especially if printed, it may appear forced.
1050	Grasshopper Sparrow	W	10	Lots of action expressed. The angle and direction of the bird. Very sharp in the body. Wings skillfully blurred - a clever and somewhat unconventional way to express the energy of flight.
1068	Boltodden tundra view	G	9	A thoughtful composition to ensure the mountains are fully reflected in the foreground pond. Interesting sky with contrast nicely handled. Love the rich colors of the foreground vegetation, compared with the relatively dull tundra and rock beyond. A minor recommendation is to do some "bright edge" control. Bright water and sky on the left draw the eye out of the frame.
1075	Cross Fox	W	8	An engaging portrait with the animal in motion and looking directly at the camera. Would be an easy 10 - except that the sharpest focus is at the fur on the sides of the head, just a bit behind the eyes. Not by much, but just enough to be noticeable at first glance.
1116	Sunset Over Presque Isle	G	8	A well planned and composed sunset shot. Good use of long exposure to soften the water and show motion in the clouds. Wet rock is a good complement to the softness of the water and clouds. One small spot of sun glare could be removed. Also, the foreground rock face on the left is just bright enough to pull me aside. Consider a slight burn to tone it down.